Birthday Party Fit for a King

Post 1/10/74 By Lou Cannon

SAN CLEMENTE—President Nixon celebrated his 61st birthday yesterday at a ceremony enjoyed most by his pet Irish setter, King Timahoe.

The dog, given to Mr. Nixon by his staff as a birthday present five years ago, was invited by the President to have "a little lick" of his cake, which was brightly decorated in blue, yellow and white icing with large blue letters that said "Happy Birthday, Mr. President."

"King, you get the first taste," the President said.

While the dog was coming over, Mr. Nixon leaned against his desk and the cake and came up with gooey icing smeared on his fingers and his maroon jacket. Someone called out, "Let King lick it off" and the President obediently sat down and offered his jacket to the Irish Setter.

During the ceremony, the President also received advice from his wife, Pat, who was standing behind the desk with their daughter, Tricia Cox.

"Lick your fingers, Dick," Mrs. Nixon said at one point.

The staff gave Mr. Nixon 61 red roses for his birthday, and the president ordered them distributed to women members of his staff. Then the President looked outside at the leaden skies which have poured down a record rain on Southern California and told the staff to "take the rest of the day off, go out and enjoy the sun, the swimming."

There has been no swimming and very little sun during the President's two-week visit here, which has been marked by severe winds, heavy rain and the highest tides in 300 years.

But the sun did break through later in the afternoon and Mr. Nixon, accompanied by Mrs. Nixon, Mrs. Cox and C. G. (Bebe) Re-

See PRESIDENT, B3, Col. 1

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PRESIDENT, From B1

bozo, went off for a 2½-hour drive in his unmarked Lincoln Continental to the Palm Springs estate of Philadelphia publisher Walter Annenberg, the U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain. He was scheduled to spend at least a night there and, weather permitting, to play the golf course on the Annenberg estate.

A White House spokesman said that King, the favorite of Mr. Nixon's three dogs, made the trip to California with the President in a carrier bag in the belly of the United Airlines jumbo jet. The President's other dogs were left behind.

Mr. Nixon was up early yesterday morning and placed a call to his other daughter, Julie Eisenhower, before 8 a.m. California time.

"This is going to be a good year, a better year," she said he told her.

Mrs. Eisenhower told reporters at the White House that she had planned a surprise sing-along for her father in the event he had returned to Washington for his birthday.

She said she had intended to have the Washington Redskins fight song flashed on the wall of the family dining room. In an apparent reference to Mr. Nixon's Watergate troubles, Mrs. Eisenhower told of the song's "Fight, Fight, Fight" theme

She said she would have had all the guests sing along, then added brightly, "We'll do that next year."

Associated Press

After President Nixon inadvertently leaned against his 61st birthday cake at San Clemente, King Timahoe was given a sampling of the icing smeared on Mr. Nixon's jacket.

Post 1/10/74

Associated Press

FIT FOR A KING — President's Irish setter, King Timahoe, is encouraged by Mr. Nixon and daughter, Tricia, to sample cake at a staff party in San Clemente marking President's 61st birthday yesterday. The scene amuses Mrs. Nixon and military aide Jack Brennan. Details, B1.